

Attorney Docket No.: ISPH-0612
Inventors: Bennett and Mirabelli
Serial No.: 09/982,262
Filing Date: October 18, 2001
Page 2

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for preserving a corneal explant ex vivo, comprising incubating a corneal explant in a solution comprising a ~~corneal~~ corneal storage medium and an antisense oligonucleotide between 8 and 50 nucleotides in length that is targeted to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), and wherein said antisense oligonucleotide ~~the~~ inhibits the expression of intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), and wherein inhibition of ICAM-1 expression results in preserving a corneal explant ex vivo.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is SEQ ID NO:22.

Claim 3(original): The method of claim 1, wherein said explant is a human explant.

Claim 4(previously presented): A method of inhibiting corneal allograft rejection, comprising contacting a corneal allograft with a topical formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide between 8 and 50 nucleotides in length that is targeted to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), and

Attorney Docket No.: ISPH-0612
Inventors: Bennett and Mirabelli
Serial No.: 09/982,262
Filing Date: October 18, 2001
Page 3

wherein said antisense oligonucleotide inhibits the expression of intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), and wherein inhibition of ICAM-1 expression results in corneal allograft rejection inhibition.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is SEQ ID NO:22.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the allograft is a human allograft.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the topical formulation is a solution.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method for preserving a corneal explant *ex vivo*, comprising incubating a corneal explant in a solution comprising a corneal storage medium and an antisense oligonucleotide between 8 and 50 nucleotides in length that is targeted to extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1) or vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1), and wherein said antisense oligonucleotide inhibits the expression of extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1) or vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1), and wherein inhibition of ELAM-1 and VCAM-1 expression results in preserving a corneal explant *ex vivo*.

Attorney Docket No.: ISPH-0612
Inventors: Bennett and Mirabelli
Serial No.: 09/982,262
Filing Date: October 18, 2001
Page 4

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 8,
wherein the explant is a human explant.

Claims 10-12 (canceled).